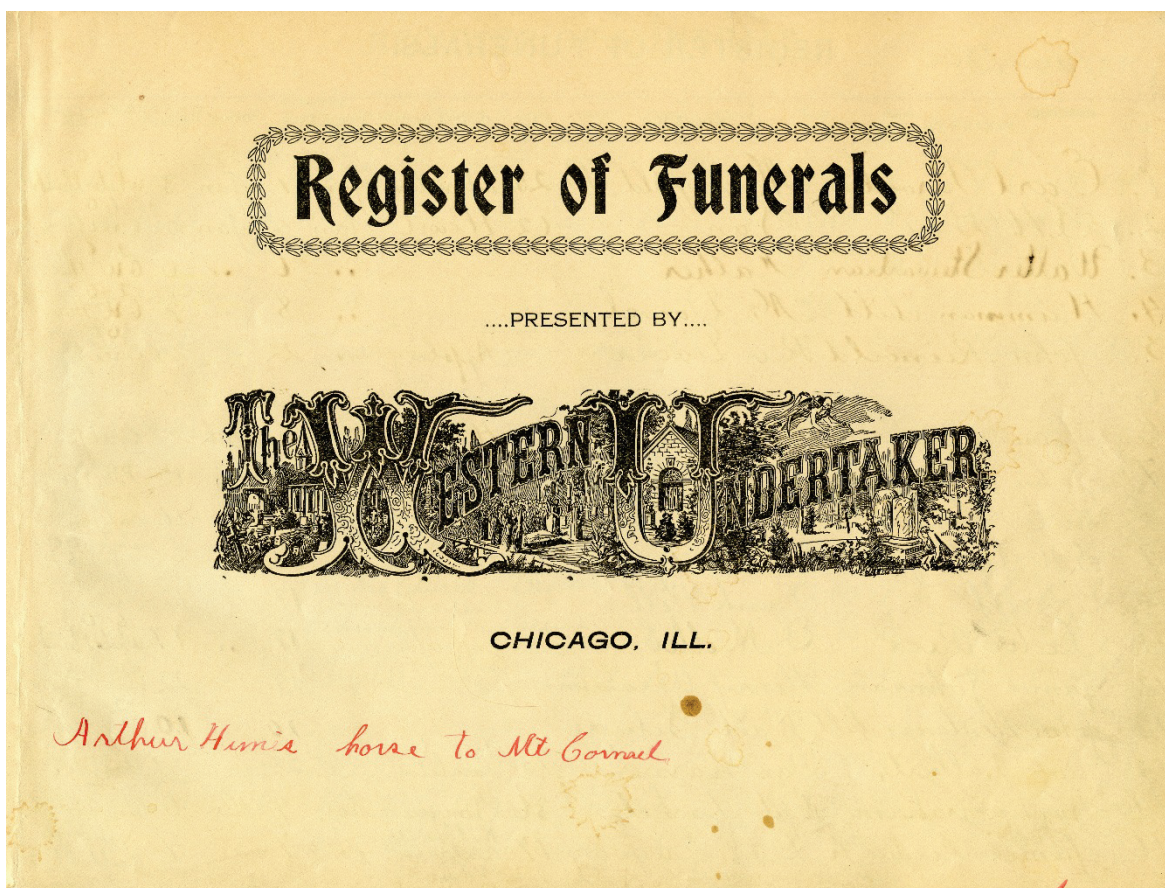


DEATH IN THE HEARTLAND: THREE YEARS OF BURIAL RECORDS FOR SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS



Chicora Research Contribution 596

DEATH IN THE HEARTLAND: THREE YEARS OF BURIAL RECORDS FOR SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS

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CHICORA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 596



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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

In 2008, Chicora was fortunate to acquire a small collection of ca. 1930 invoices from casket manufacturers issued to two Chicago area funeral homes. In the collection was a slim volume, lacking its original red leather binding, entitled only, *Register of Funerals*. After careful investigation, we determined that the register was associated with a different funeral home than the invoices and traced it to an undertaker operating in the community of Shelbyville, Illinois between 1900 and mid-1902.

The use of preprinted books or forms to keep track of funerals was common and we have worked with several accounts from South Carolina. The documents are useful additions to death certificates, providing information on the nature of the casket, how the body was prepared, and the costs of the funeral. They provide a cross section, often including rich and poor.

Shelbyville, in Shelby County, is in middle of Illinois – a farming community in the prairies, forming part of the great heartland. As such, the two and-a-half years of business represented provide an introduction to the business of undertaking in this region, as well as providing additional information for at least a few families seeking to learn more about their ancestors.

This document transcribes data on 210 burials between January 3, 1900 and May 28, 1902. While there were many more blank pages, the document abruptly ends. Information is provided, albeit on an inconsistent basis, for the individual (date of death, person notifying the undertaker, age, and cause of death), choices concerning the casket and the decedent's clothing, where the funeral was conducted, and where the burial took place.

The total cost of funerals ranged from as little as \$1 (for transporting the body) to as much as \$200 (apparently quite an elaborate affair),

although the average was just under \$50. Embalming at this time was rarely practiced, perhaps because of the \$10 to \$20 extra, or perhaps because of local conservatism.

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Introduction

Background

The *Register of Funerals* was among a small package of ca. 1930 materials obtained by Chicora primarily because of our research on casket prices. The bulk of the materials in the collection were invoices from a variety of well-known casket companies to two separate Chicago area funeral homes. Included with the collection, however, was the once bound, but now missing both front and back board covers of a *Register of Funerals*. Forms, books, and volumes such as this were provided routinely by a variety of companies. For example, the 1923 National Casket Company Specialties Catalog lists several different options, including their No. 4617 Funeral Arrangement Record and their No. 4585 Loose-Leaf Funeral Register. Such documents had a space for all of the information that the undertaker would find necessary to track.

The Current Document

The Western Undertaker, Chicago, Illinois, prepared the one we obtained. This company produced a trade magazine by the same name beginning in 1879, which became *The American Funeral Director* in 1920 (Mott 1938:133). It measured 10¼ by 7¼-inches and consisted of 36 double page sheets, with only 13 used. Each sheet was able to hold 16 funerals.

As Figure 1 reveals, each double page contained a defined space for the burial number, the name of the decedent, who ordered the funeral (and likely who would be responsible for the bill), the age of the decedent, the cause of death, the date of the death, the date of the burial, information concerning the “coffin or casket and size,” price, whether a robe, suit, or wrapper (shroud) was

acquired and its price. Following this, there were blanks for the price for embalming and attendance, carriages, flowers, the grave, vault, hearse, chairs, and the total charge. There was a column for when payment was made and for “remarks.”

The firm using this volume consistently changed the column for payment to one indicating “miles.” It is unclear if this represented all of the mileage associated with this burial (i.e., collecting the body, returning it to the house if the funeral took place there, and then transferring it to the cemetery). Nevertheless, we could find no indication that this mileage was ever specifically billed, unless there was yet another account book that has not survived.

Also consistently changed was the column headed “remarks.” There the cemetery was generally identified. The middle columns for charges such as embalming, carriages, flowers, etc. were generally ignored and, in their place, information was recorded regarding the preacher used and the location of the funeral. On the very first page, under “Hearse,” the owner had added, “Miles,” suggesting the miles that the hearse was used – and this mileage was occasionally more than the total miles. Often notations were written across all of these columns, adapting each entry to the needs of the time.

The document was filled in using a black fountain pen with at least two distinct handwritings. There was also considerable variation in neatness and thoroughness of the entries. In fact, in at least one case we discovered an addition error while totaling one line.

In addition, some entries were scratched out, while others were corrected by writing over the initial date or amount. Very little consistency

was evident, other than the consistency mandated by the column headings. We also discovered that those entering information were not entirely literate, with many misspellings, often with words written phonetically. For example, tuberculosis was often spelled, "tuberculouse" and Baptist was spelled "Babtis."

The handwriting was also at times difficult to decipher, being especially difficult to distinguish "a" from "o," and "e" from "i." As a result, spellings are the best that could be obtained without researching each individual mentioned.

There was also a certain casualness in names. Often, the individual ordering the funeral was simply identified as "son," or "father," without further identification. This may suggest that the community was so small, the undertaker was not concerned about payment (or alternatively, that he was a poor businessman). In addition, it surprised us that several decedents were referred to "old man ---" or "Old Mrs. ---." Clearly, the document was never intended to be public.

The Origin of the Document

With no business name or location, all of the information we had was a list of cemeteries and names. The most prominent cemetery was Glenwood and mileage indicated that the origin of the numerous burials was always within a mile. By looking at websites such as Find A Grave and tracking down identified burials, such as George W. Bolinger and Earle Broyles, we were able to confirm that the Glenwood referred to in the document was located in Shelbyville, Illinois. The burial of Amelia Judd Nims was also located in Find A Grave, confirming that she was shipped to her cemetery in Golden Cemetery, Missouri.

We next attempted to attach the funeral register to a known undertaker in Shelbyville, Illinois. The 1900 federal census identified one individual, Albert Lantz, as being an undertaker in Enumeration District 0124 in Shelbyville, Shelby, Illinois. In 1900, he was 31 years old and lived on South First Street. The 1911 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map reveals that a business identified as

"undertaker" was located on the east side of South Broadway Street, midblock between West Main to the north and South First Street to the south. It appears that Lantz lived about a block away from his place of business and show room.

While communicating with the Shelbyville Historical Society we learned that several years ago they acquired a photocopy of the Register, apparently from the same individual who subsequently passed the record to us.

The federal census records are ambiguous concerning the origin of Albert Lantz. It is possible that his father was Benjamin F. Lantz, a blacksmith, this is uncertain. Curiously, there was a Thomas Lantz in neighboring Indiana who was also an undertaker (although we have not been able to establish a link). Nevertheless, by 1900, Albert Lantz, married to Camilla (or Comala) was living in Shelbyville where he was employed as an undertaker.

In fact, by 1881, the Lantz Brothers were a Shelbyville business, identified as "Stoves, Furniture & Undertakers" (Anonymous 1981:155). Chafee provides much more detailed information, revealing that the business was begun by Philip Lantz from Ohio and carried on by his three sons, William H. (d.1905), Isaac S. (d. 1896), and Charles Phillip (d. 1916) (Chafee 1910:916-917). Unfortunately, while the father, Phillip, was an undertaker, we have learned nothing about the education or training of the sons. In addition, we have been unable to identify a family connection between Phillip and Albert or Ralph B. Consequently, there is much still waiting to be resolved. Fortunately, the family connections do not drastically influence the rest of this investigation.

A 1901 news account reveals that an Albert Lantz was granted a divorce from his wife, Bell Lantz (*The Daily Review*, Decatur, Illinois, September 7, 1901, pg. 2). This was most likely a previous wife. The following year, an Albert Lantz was reported to have been arrested during a police raid of a gambling house (*The Decatur Herald*,

Decatur, Illinois, February 7, 1902, pg. 2). In 1902, a Bert Lantz appears, this time in a report that he was in St. Louis, taking a post-graduate course in embalming (*The Daily Review*, Decatur, Illinois, January 20, 1903, pg. 3).

The 1910 census continued to list Albert as an undertaker in Shelbyville (although he was an employee, not the owner). He was also still married to Camilla.

By 1920, we are no longer to identify Albert in Shelbyville. Nevertheless, Lantz Brothers were still in business as late as 1939 and advertising as both undertakers and as an ambulance service (a common combination during the period) (Anonymous 1939:5, 12).

We also note that a Ralph B. Lantz was now the owner of an undertaking firm, using the more modern term, a funeral director. He was 37 years old and lived on West Main Street with his wife, Eva. Ralph and Eva continue to be listed in the 1930 census, still living on South Broadway and still in the funeral business. He advertised his ambulance service in 1939, but there was no listing in the directory exclusively for undertakers or funeral homes (Anonymous 1939:5, 12). By 1940, Ralph was a widower, but now on South First Street, still engaged as a funeral director.

During the early 1900s, a brief search revealed that while Lantz may have been the only undertaker in the county seat, Decatur in neighboring Macon County had a much more lively business.

One of the largest firms there was J.B. Bullard, who in 1903 was advertising his prices in the local newspaper. For example, a “casket made of chestnut covered with fine English crepe cloth, three panel, high roll top, trimmed with six silver or silk bar handles, name plate, and satin lined interior” was advertised for only \$25 (*The Decatur Herald*, Decatur, Illinois, May 17, 1903, pg. 11). He had been in business for the previous 23 years and for a brief period was involved with the Harrison Mutual Burial Association. Like other associations,

it charged an initial fee and an assessment for each death in return for a proper burial.

Another local undertaker was the Hawkins-Davis Company, who advertised both a “graduate embalmer” and a “lady attendant if desired” (*The Decatur Herald*, Decatur, Illinois, November 22, 1903, pg. 3).

Decatur was also of note since it was the location of the Decatur Coffin Company. This company was begun in 1872 and continued until its closing in 1942 (Nelson 1910:568-569, *Decatur Daily Review*, Decatur, Illinois, November 4, 1950, pg. 12). The proximity of this firm likely helped reduce the price of coffins in the immediate area.

But Illinois had a number of death-related companies, including the Undertaker’s Supply Company of Chicago, Frigid Fluid Company, Chicago, and the Illinois Casket Company, also in Chicago (Miller 2001:24-25, 51).

What the Records Contribute

Illinois passed a law as early 1843 providing for the registration of births and deaths within their counties, but it was voluntary and very few counties participated. Additional legislation in 1877 again mandated these records, but again provided no enforcement. It was not until 1915 that Illinois death certificates were effectively recorded. Today those certificates older than 50 years are available on-line (https://cyberdrive.illinois.com/departments/archives/databases/idp_hdeathindex.html). Therefore, the records from this death register predate the readily available death certificates by nearly 15 years.

Shelby County, however, began recording death certificates in 1878, because of the second state law. These certificates, comprising two microfilm rolls, are available the office of County Clerk and at other archives, but do not appear to be available on-line (Anonymous n.d.).

Thus, while the burials listed in this

register may be included in the county database, this is not readily available to the public. Of far greater importance, however, is that funeral registers provide very different information, focusing on the consumer choices made by families at the death of a loved one. Of greatest consequence is information on the coffin, its trimmings, and how the body was prepared.

The Heartland

Shelby County is in the south-central part of Illinois and is about 768 square miles in size (Figure 2). It is situated about 56 miles southeast of the state's capital, Springfield. While the relief in Shelby County is relatively low and descends from the northeast to the southwest, the county is heavily influenced by the coverage of the last two glacial periods, known as the Illinoian and Wisconsinan. The central, northern, and northeastern portions of the county are characterized by undulating and rolling hills with good drainage. To the south and west are flat plains with poor drainage (Wascher et al. 1939:6). The county, however, is usually described as consisting of "smooth prairie land (Chafee 1910:632).

This resulted in soils that are nearly level and gently sloping and formed in medium textured material under tall prairie grasses. These, coupled with the favorable climate, result in highly productive farmland. The major crops today are corn (historically the dominant crop), winter wheat, and soybeans, in that order, and the average farm size is about 327 acres. During the twentieth century, farms have made up about 85% of the county, most raising crops, although beef cattle and hogs are also major livestock enterprises.

In 1910, only a few years after the compilation of the *Funeral Record*, the county staple products were Indian corn, potatoes, yams, hay, sorghum, wheat, oats, and broom corn (Chafee 1910:59).

In winter, the average temperature is about 29°F, while in summer the average is about 74°F, occasionally rising to about 84°F. The total annual precipitation is about 40-inches, with about

56% falling during the growing season. The average seasonal snowfall is about 20-inches (Gotsch 1996).

Shelby County consisted of 22 townships (Figure 3), with populations ranging from 4,304 in Shelbyville to only 541 in Penn, with a total population in 1910 of slightly over 32,000 individuals (Chafee 1910:632). Shelbyville is the county seat and largest town with a population of about 4,500. The community was located on the line of the Illinois and St. Louis Railroad, an east-west line and the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad, a north-south line. It is bordered to the east by the Kaskaskia (or Okaw) River (Chafee 1910:675-678).

Death in the Heartland

There are a number of books describing the history of funerals, embalming, burial, and the associated business practices, including Habenstein and Lamers (1955), Ferrell (1980), Laderman (2003), and of course, Mitford (1963, 1998). Crissman (1994) provides an analog for rural Illinois in his discussions of death and dying in the Appalachians.

There were a variety of changes between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Embalming slowly became more accepted, undertakers gradually transformed themselves into funeral directors, bodies that were once largely prepared at home by family members were increasingly relegated to the professional mortician, purveyors of coffins became handlers of funeral options and sold caskets, homes were replaced by churches for funeral services, and modern hearses replaced horses.

Ferrell notes many of these changes, commenting that,

Before the 1880a, undertaking was largely an informal, unorganized enterprise, often the adjunct of a furniture business. In the small towns and rural areas

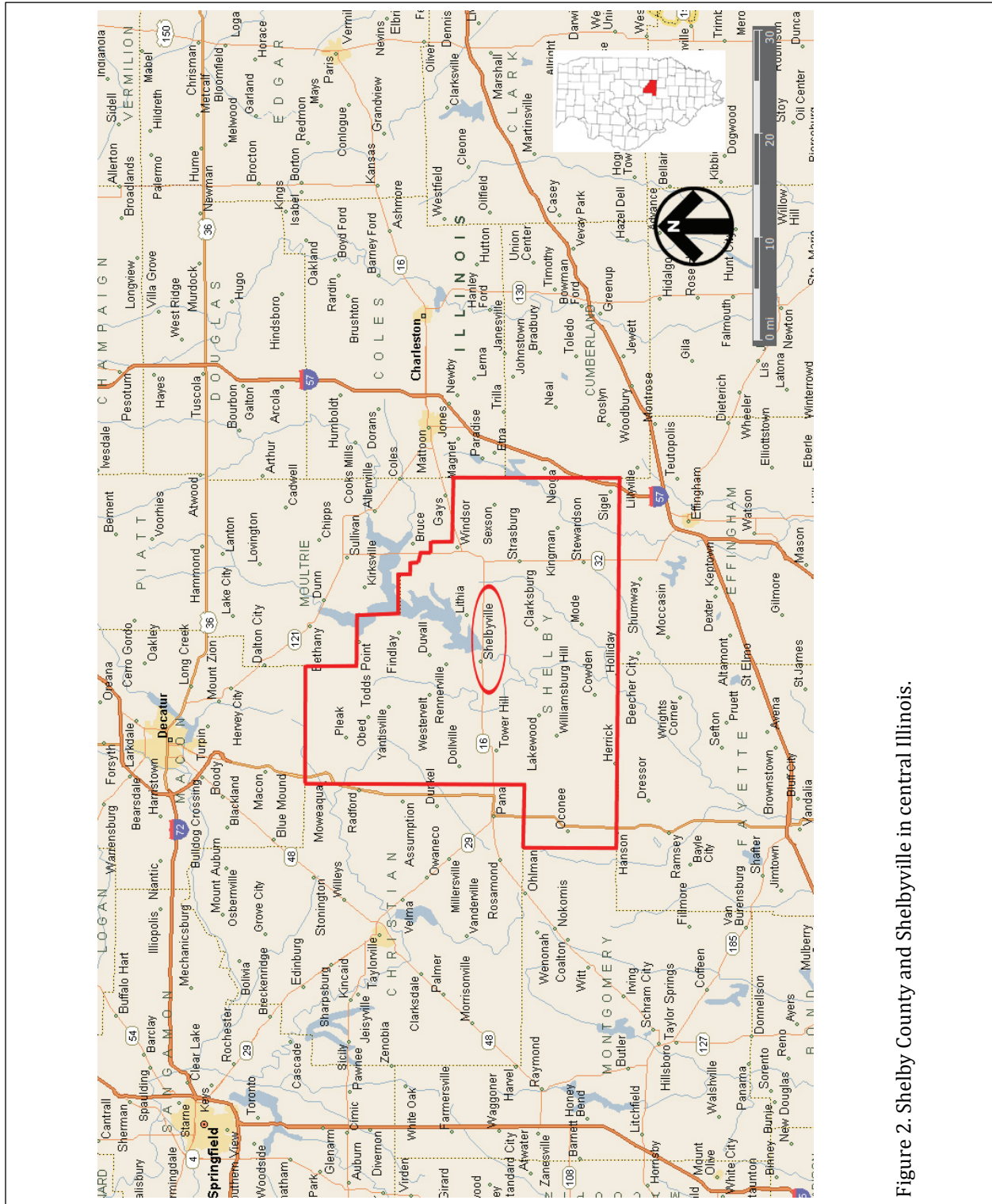


Figure 2. Shelby County and Shelbyville in central Illinois.

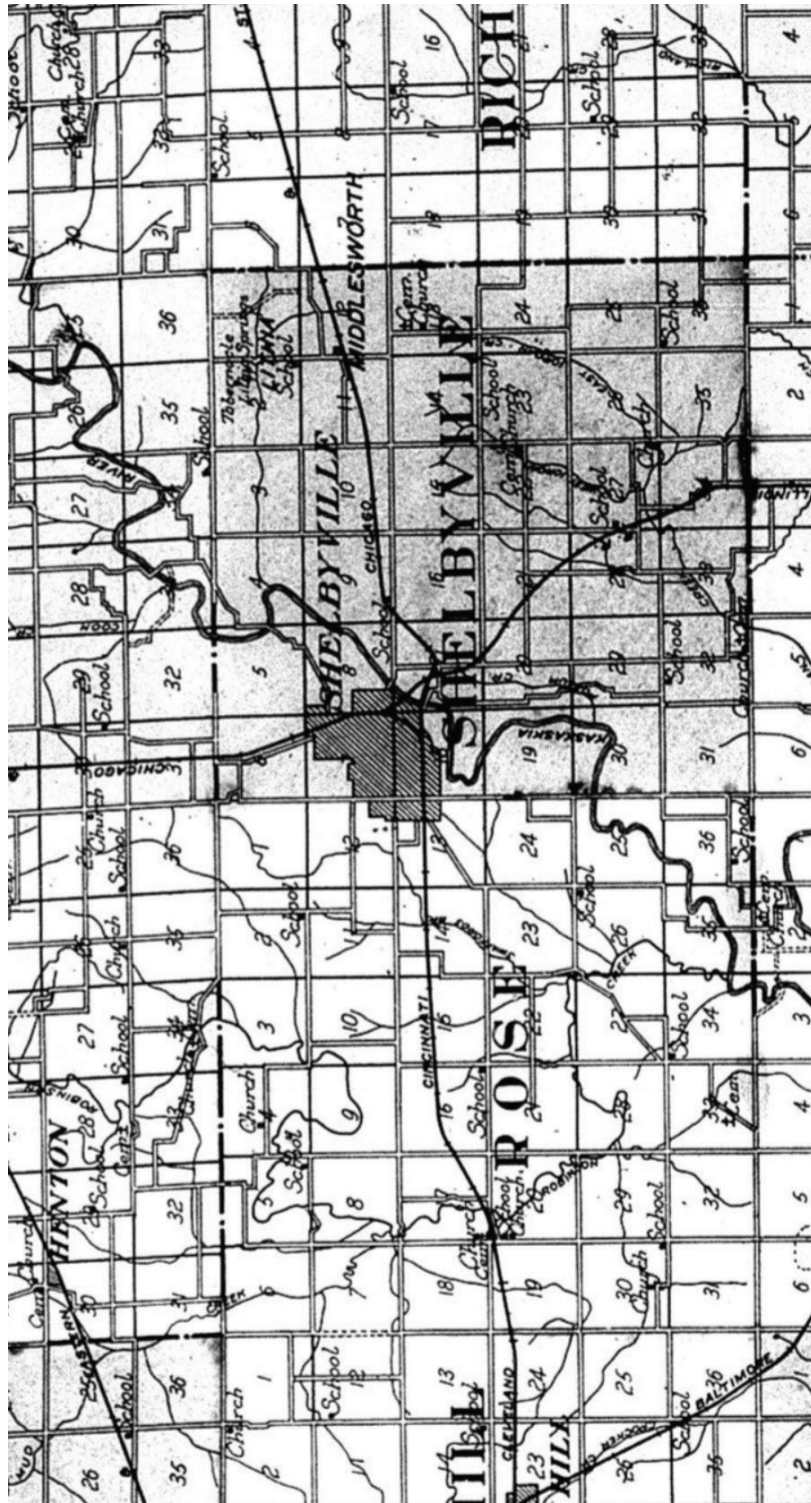


Figure 3. Portion of Shelby Shelbyville Township in Shelby County (adapted from *Standard Atlas of Shelby County*, 1916).

where most Americans lived, a death in the family set a train of tradition into motion. . . . Over the course of the nineteenth century, families called undertakers to perform more and more of the services of the funeral Changes in funeral service occurred to a great degree as the undertaker switched from selling commodities to selling services (Ferrell 1980:147-148).

Many of these features are apparent in even a cursory examination of the funeral register from Shelbyville.

For example, the 1900 census indicates that Albert Lantz could read and write, but does not provide any additional information. However, Robert B. Lantz, who took over the business, had only a high school education (based on the 1940 census).

At least initially, Lantz was identified with a business that sold stoves and furniture, with

undertaking seemingly an “add-on.” Certainly, the funeral registers suggest that the funeral business was unlikely to produce significant income, indicating an annual income of perhaps \$3,500 to \$4,000, generated by less than 100 funerals a year.

Area Churches and Cemeteries

The *Register of Funerals* refers to a variety of churches, most of which are located in the Shelbyville community (based on the 1906 Sanborn Insurance Maps). These churches and their addresses are identified in Table 1.

Similarly, there are a number of cemeteries referenced. Many, although not all, are readily identifiable still today. A few of the more frequently referenced cemeteries and their approximate locations (as a direction and mileage from Shelbyville) are provided in Table 2.

The majority of those in these records, regardless of religion, were buried at Glenwood Cemetery. The published histories of the community make reference to both the “city



Figure 4. Funeral of Maud Flora in Johnson County, Illinois, showing a typical “at home” funeral of the period (<http://thepointisiforgot.blogspot.com/2012/04/great-grandma-maude-ann-choate-flora.html>).

He notes that much of this change was the result of families accumulating the money to distinguish themselves as “middle class” and adopting middle class gentility and tastes.

Laderman characterizes these changes as “intimacy lost,” with family being replaced by strangers (2003:1). There was a growth of embalming schools, where Laderman (2003:7) notes entrants entered “without much college or even high school education.”

Table 1.
Churches referenced in the *Register of Funerals*

Church	Location in Shelbyville
Baptist	SW corner Wood and N 2 nd St
Free Methodist Episcopal	SW corner S 1 st and Douglass St
Methodist Episcopal	NW corner W Main and Locust St
Moulton Methodist Episcopal	NE corner S Spruce and S 3 rd St
Presbyterian	NE corner Vine and N 1 st St
Catholic	SE corner N 1 st and N Washington St
St. John's German Lutheran	NE corner N 5 th and Wood St
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran	SW corner Union and Pine St
Christian	SW corner S 1 st and S Broadway St
Unitarian	SW corner N 2 nd and N Washington St
Mount Carmel (Methodist Episcopal)	4 mi S

and management of the grounds. There are also two old grave-yards that belong to the city, but are filled, and all the interments are made in the new cemetery (Anonymous 1881:154).

One of these earlier cemeteries is shown on the 1895 Sanborn Insurance Map as being located east of Water Street, bisected at that time by 2nd Street.

Even in 1895, it was being developed and today the property is entirely covered. The first cemetery was not immediately identified, but we assume that it, too, has been destroyed.

Relatively few of the burials recorded in this record were far removed from Shelbyville, with most being no more than about 4-5 miles outside of town. The few shipped out of state did not go far, generally no further than Ohio or Indiana.

There were also some who had left the community, but were returned for burial. A few from Decatur, only 36 miles north of Shelbyville (e.g., James Laundryman and Ben Mansfield). However, others had gone much further, such as 2-year old John Angeline, who died of scarlet fever and was shipped from Jennings, Louisiana, 800 miles south of Shelbyville. Or 20 year old Stella Colbert who died of typhoid, shipped some 600 miles from Indian Territory. These individuals all returned home as freight on one of the several trains passing through Shelbyville.

Some Definitions

It will be useful to provide some definitions to make the following transcription more useful.

Under the cause of death will be recognized a variety of diseases, such as tuberculosis, appendicitis, cancer, and pneumonia. However, others are not immediately recognized

Table 2.
A few of the cemeteries referenced in the *Register of Funerals*

Cemetery	Location
Center	10 mi SSW
Craig	5¼ mi NW
Glenwood	NE edge of town
Jordan	4 mi E
Mount Carmel	4 mi S
Pleasant Hill	5 mi. SSW
Poor House	4½ mi NW
Quigley	8 mi NE
Richland	8 mi E
Stewardson	14 mi SE
Sulfur Springs	8 mi E
Todds Point	12 mi N
Union	10 mi ESE
Washington	4 mi NW
Zion	7 mi SE

cemetery" and the "Shelbyville Cemetery," but we have not found a mention of Glenwood. One history does provide a little information,

The City Cemetery contains 40 acres of land purchased by the city of Gen. M. F. Thornton. It is beautifully situated on high ground, on the banks of the Okaw river north-east of the city. The grounds are artistically laid out, interspersed with fine forest and ornamental trees, broad and well graded avenues and walks. The city has control of the sale of lots,

today. For example, “consumption” is simply another term for tuberculosis and “lung fever” was another term for pneumonia. Why these variants are used is difficult to ascertain, but it suggests that a doctor was often not in attendance and family or friends estimated causes of death.

One individual was “killed by beef,” suggesting that they may have consumed canned or potted beef, resulting in botulism. Where “paralysis” or “paralytic” is listed as the cause, it is likely resulting from a stroke (although there are other diseases resulting in paralysis, such as botulism). Dropsy is an old term for edema or swelling of the soft tissue. One cause that would likely lead to death is congestive heart failure. In one case, a more specific “dropsy of the head” was listed. This may be a variation on dropsy of the brain, which was used to describe encephalitis. Bright’s disease would today be considered acute or chronic nephritis associated with the kidneys. It is often associated with high blood pressure and heart disease. Remittent fever is technically a symptom, not a cause; it can be associated with a wide variety of infections.

One individual died of “congestive chills,” which was a term used to describe malaria with diarrhea.

The one reference to “blood to water” is perhaps the most curious of all the causes. We have found no reference to this as a cause of death and, in fact, plasma is already 90% water. Therefore, this meaning is unknown, but it perhaps reflects the presence of blood in the urine.

A number of individuals died of “old age.” As we know, being old is not a cause of death; there will be some other proximate cause. However, in situations where physicians were not called, an “old” individual in seemingly good health may die from old age because of undiagnosed cancer, heart disease, etc.

Under the category of casket, there is often a two-digit number, such as 6-0 or 2-3. These represent the size of the coffin. These generally

represent the length of the casket on the bottom, for example 6-0 representing 6 feet 0 inches. However, beyond that, other measurements varied by manufacturer and most importantly, by style. For example, a 6-0 octagon or elliptic coffin might have measurements of 18-inches in width at the bottom and 21 inches of width at the top, while a 6-0 square coffin would measure 21 inches in width. Generally, each manufacturer included a table providing interior dimensions for their caskets. In addition, many offered not only the regular size, but also a “first extra,” “second extra,” and “triple extra” for larger patrons.

Children’s caskets, however, were sized differently, although again this varied by manufacturer. For example, one firm’s 2-3 casket had a length of 3-feet 1½ inches, a width of 17½-inches, and a height of 15¼-inches. Another manufacturer’s 2-3 casket gave measurements of 8½-inches for the width at the base, 10¼-inches for width on top, and a depth of 8½-inches. Occasionally, firms would offer helpful charts providing the size of casket typically used for children of different ages, so that a 2-3 casket was recommended for a 6-month old child (United States Casket Company 1916:241; see also National Casket Company: 1903:49).

As implied in the descriptions listed in the *Register of Funerals*, there was a bewildering array of shapes, coverings, and fittings. In fact, the stock was so bewildering that we suspect most undertakers reduced the confusion by focusing on a few styles that appealed to local taste, were affordable, but that offered the opportunity for distinctive features.

To solve the ordering problem (since very few undertakers kept stock on-hand), firms offered telegraph words for colors, shapes, sizes, and styles, allowing the local undertaker to conveniently and inexpensively order caskets to be delivered the following day by train to the local depot.

During this period, caskets might be first be divided into covered, varnished, metallic, or

pine box. The covered caskets were generally a base wood covered with a fabric, which was generally either black or white, but varied dramatically in texture and quality. The varnished caskets would wood, generally of oak, mahogany, birch, cypress, or chestnut. Even here, however, there was exceptional variety. For example, the oak might be described as golden oak, quartered oak, English weathered oak, imitation oak, English quartered oak, solid oak, or Imperial oak. The metal used in the metallic caskets was sometimes not specified, but might include steel, bronze, bevel (welded), or by this time even aluminum. Metal caskets might even be cloth covered. Pine boxes were the least expensive of all options, with sizes from 5-0 to 6-3 ranging from \$3.00 to \$3.50 wholesale. Infant sizes ranged from \$1.50 to \$1.60. In order to make these appear a little less stark, they might be painted on the outside and papered on the inside.

Some of these caskets were made with partial or full glass plates, allowing the body to be viewed under glass.

The most common fabrics mentioned in the *Register of Funerals* were crepe and plush. Crepe was a silk, wool, or synthetic fiber fabric with a distinctively crisp, crimped appearance and is often associated with mourning. Plush is a textile with a cut nap or pile similar to fustian or velvet. Its texture gives it a soft or luxurious feel.

There are numerous references in the *Register of Funerals* regarding burial robes. By the early twentieth century most funeral sundry catalogs include burial robes, wraps, and suits for both men and women. Shrouds seem to have gone out of fashion or else there was no profit to be made by the national companies. Robes were essentially one sided, faux clothing, typically covering the decedent only to the waist, although included a

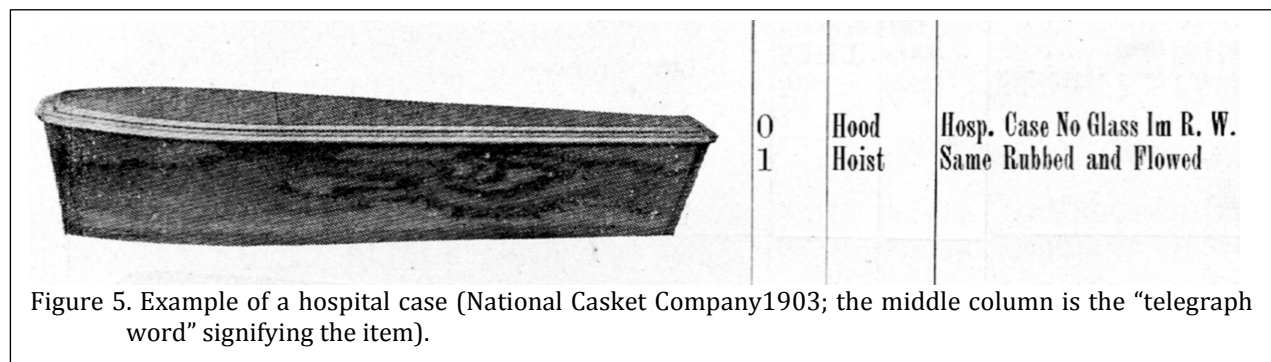


Figure 5. Example of a hospital case (National Casket Company 1903; the middle column is the “telegraph word” signifying the item).

There are occasional references to “hospital cases” in the register. These were what have been called “toe-pincher” coffins. They were wood, hexagonal, widest at the shoulders, and tapering to the head and feet. They were advertised in the 6-0 size at \$5.25 to as much as \$700 for a finish “hand rubbed and flowed,” wholesale (National Casket Company 1903).

The casket top might open as one or two panels. The front side, opposite the hinges, might “drop” allowing for better viewing of the body at rest, making the casket take on the appearance of a couch, with the decedent appearing at rest.

skirt for both men and women. These were easy to put on, often being tied at the back with cords, and allowed the body to be viewed in a half-couch coffin (i.e., one in which only the upper half of the body was exposed).

In contrast, a suit or dress, as the name implies, was three-dimensional clothing.

Finally, a wrapper might be compared to a bathrobe – a full-length devise what gave the appearance of the decedent relaxing. Examples of the three are provided in Figure 6.

There are also references to slippers. As

INTRODUCTION



No. 100. ROBE.

Worsted Crepe, with stitched lapels and linen trimmed, standing collar and black silk four-in-hand tie.

No.	Quality
100 D—Worsted Crepe	064
100 H—Morie Cloth	061
100 S—Worsted Serge	022
100 J—Diagonal	061
100 WC—Whip Cord	061
100 S—No. 3 Broadcloth	052
100 C—Cashmere	052

PRINCE ALBERT SUITS

No. 150. Finest imported Broadcloth; best linen bosom, cuffs, turn-down or standing collar; black silk bow tie.

No.	Quality
150 No. 1 Broadcloth	055
151 No. 2 Broadcloth	575
152 No. 3 Broadcloth	527
153 No. 4 Broadcloth	008
154 No. 5 Broadcloth	0001
155 J Worsted diagonal	053
156 D Crepe	053
157 H Morie cloth	053
158 E Cheviot	054
150 Y Storm serge	036
15 S Worsted serge	004

GENTLEMEN'S WRAPPERS

No. 2051 T. First quality of Cashmere, satin vest, quilted satin lapels and cuffs, bound with silk cord, silk ornaments and buttons, Linen trimmed, turn-down or standing collar, satin bow tie.

No.	Quality
2051 T. First quality Cashmere	055
2051 K Coburg	054
2051 No. 0 Broadcloth	526
2051 H Morie	064
2051 No. 0 Broadcloth, with Broadcloth lapels	006



No. 296 ROBE

Fine Coburg, satin plaited and shirred front, satin embroidery down each side of vest and sleeves, crushed collar with Ruche.

No.	Quality
296 K Fine Coburg	542

No. 2542 V DRESS

Quality, 007

Fine black merino, soft chiffon front, with a fine black lace on each side, giving a soft and pretty effect, suitable for middle aged or old lady. Gored skirt, and both skirt and waist are thoroughly lined. This dress is also furnished in other qualities as described below:

No.	Quality
2542 C Second quality Cashmere	526
2542 T First quality Cashmere	576
2542 M Fine Twilled Merino	578



No. 458 WRAPPER

Cashmere, figured silk front. Trimmed with satin ribbon, ruching in neck and sleeves. Made in white, black, and cream.

No.	Quality
458 C Second quality Cashmere	574
458 T First quality Cashmere	006



WOMEN'S EIDERDOWN SLIPPERS

No. 6360 Women's White ELASTIC EIDERDOWN.

No. 6361 Women's Black ELASTIC EIDERDOWN.

No. 6362 Women's Gray ELASTIC EIDERDOWN.

ELASTIC SOFT-SOLE SLIPPERS

Simple, practical slippers which add the touch of ease and refinement so desired. Soft and comfortable in appearance. Made of finest materials. Fit the foot like a glove. Satin cushion insole.

Neat burial footwear is an important detail at every funeral. National Practical Slippers are laced at heel, making them easy to put on and permitting a range of several sizes in length. Fore part of slipper of exceedingly good style and has extra width which assures the fitting of a wide or swollen foot. Well made from high-grade materials.



MEN'S PUMPS

With Heel	Without Heel	Description
No. 6340	6344	Black Kid
No. 6341	6345	PATENT LEATHER

Figure 6. Examples of robes, suits/dresses, wrappers, slippers, and laced pumps (National Casket Company 1903; National Casket Company 1923).

the name implies, these were essentially bedroom slippers with soft soles. Most importantly, they were highly elasticized, ensuring they would fit relatively inflexible and often swollen feet. While made for both men and women, the styles were generally unisexual, likely to allow undertakers to use what was available. In addition, undertakers offered more traditional pumps, some with heels, others without. But what characterized these is that they laced up at the rear, allowing them to be slid onto feet and laced as much as possible from behind, invisible to patrons.

Transcription

The following pages represent as complete and accurate transcription of the *Register of Funerals* as was possible. Spellings, where obviously incorrect, have been corrected (suicide for sewaside, for example). This includes the names of the preachers, where we found tremendous variation in spellings. Otherwise, the information is as it was found in the original document.

We have added a final column that contains information present in the original document, but which was not placed in any specific column or was simply fitted in. Rather than attempt to replicate this organization, the notations were simply moved to a separate column.

TRANSCRIPTION

Remains of	Ordered by	Age	Cause of Death	Date of Death	Date of Burial	Coffin	Price	Robe, Suit, or Wrapper
Broyles, Earl	Mansfield, B.	23	tuberculosis	1/1/1900	1/3/1900	6-0 white plush	65.00	
Bly, S.H.	Sons	62	heart	1/4/1900	1/5/1900	6-0 crepe	50.00	robe
Stewartson, Walter, baby of	Father			1/6/1900	1/6/1900	2-0 G W Hass	5.00	
Hamman child	McDowell			1/8/1900	1/7/1900	2-0 G W Hass	5.00	
Reinoeld, John	Davis, Rev		apoplexy	1/22/1900	1/24/1900	6-0 crepe	57.00	robe
Rose, James	Bartscht, Gregory		heart	2/5/1900	2/	6-0 crepe	60.00	robe
Clausen, John	Heinze, Lew	18	appendicitis	2/13/1900	2/14/1900	P.K. Plush	55.00	
Smith, Mrs. E.F.	Flowers, William		cancer of stomach	2/15/1900	2/16/1900	blk cloth satin	65.00	
Bolinger, G.W.	Eddy, Dr.		stomach trouble	2/16/1900		5-9 white b cloth draped	125.00	
Dill, D.	Dill, Frank		consumption	2/17/1900	2/17/1900	6-0 crepe	shipped in	
Rice, Sadie	Miller, E.		consumption	2/18/1900	2/19/1900	6-0 white plush	50.00	
Johnson, Mrs. James	Braium, Henry		softening of brain	2/19/1900	2/22/1900	6-3 blk cloth draped square	100.00	
Hentans, John - child	Silvers, Walt			2/10/1900	2/10/1900	2-3 G W Hass	6.00	
Talbert	Warner, Dan	75	paralytic	2/28/1900	2/29/1900	6-0 Hasfilal	15.00	
Graham, Aunty	Tacket, Ed	86	gangrene	3/4/1900	3/6/1900	plain black cloth	80.00	slippers
Fisher, James, Jr.	Gregory, D.B.	17	killed by train at Ramsey	3/7/1900	3/9/1900	shipped in hospital	8.00	
Moore	Leathers & Fryborger	4	brain fever	3/15/1900	3/16/1900	3-0 SWT Case	12.00	
Beem, Roy	Beem, W.H.	18 months	poison by beef	3/16/1900	3/17/1900	3-0 white plush couch	26.00	
Smith	Smith, Sam			3/19/1900	3/20/1900	shipped in	0.00	
Padget, George E	Stite, K.A.			3/23/1900	3/24/1900	shipped in	0.00	
Smith, Dr.	Smith, Eb		heart	3/30/1900	3/31/1900	6-0 Plush Cam	70.00	
Kelley, Samuel	Kelly, Joe		old age	4/1/1900	4/2/1900	6-0 crepe	34.00	
Corns, Jr., Mrs. William	telephone		consumption	4/2/1900	4/4/1900	6-0 white draped	80.00	slippers, stocking, robe
	Stame, William			4/2/1900	4/4/1900	2-0 G W Hass	5.00	
Clarie, Maggie	Fox, Marry		consumption	4/4/1900	4/6/1900	6-0 white plush	60.00	
Fisher, Wesley, child of	Fisher, Wes			4/5/1900	4/6/1900	2-0 G W Hass	5.00	
Owens, J.J.	Reed, Henderson	82	dropsy	4/6/1900	4/7/1900	6-0 Hutton in Wal	40.00	
Carnes, Dasie	Reed, Henderson	21	abscesses of the sides	4/15/1900	4/17/1900	6-0 blk draped	65.00	
Culp, Charles	Culp, Lauin	17	lung fever	4/17/1900	4/18/1900	6-0 steel gray	90.00	
Goff, Charles, wife of	Goff, Charles		tuberculosis	4/20/1900	4.21/1900	5-3 Hutton	25.00	
Bailey, Mrs. Ezra	Anglin, John			4/20/1900	4/23/1900			
Joseph A. & Abe Perryman & D. Barker				4/25/1900	4/26/1900	5-6 crepe	25.00	
Bolinger, George, baby of	Ward, Charles			4/28/1900	4/28/1900	2-0 GW Plain	10.00	
Fintan, Mrs. Pat	Fintan, Mr.		paralytic	4/28/1900	4/30/1900	6-0 white cloth	90.00	white hose .25
Noon, Mrs. John	Pagne		lung fever	4/28/1900	5/1/1900	6-0 oct blk draped	60.00	
Durst, Jacob	Waganer, Dr.		heart	5/3/1900	5/4/1900	6-3 square draped	75.00	
Noon, James	Atkinson, William		lung fever	5/4/1900	5/5/1900	6-3 oct draped	60.00	
Haw, Ed	Summers, Sam			5/8/1900	5/9/1900	6-3 oak state	50.00	
Montague, old man	Montague			5/9/1900	5/9/1900	6-3 crepe	60.00	
Tallman, Miss	Tallman, Wells		tuberculosis	5/13/1900	5/14/1900	6-0 white P.K.	51.00	blue & cream, slippers
Lantz, Samuel G.	Lewis, Charles	76		5/20/1900	5/21/1900	6-3 crepe	35.00	robe
McGilligan, Mrs. Ed	Dauthet		cancer of stomach	5/22/1900	5/23/1900	6-0 crepe draped	60.00	
Runkle, Miss Sarah	Smith	17	lung fever	5/27/1900	5/28/1900	6-0 white plush	65.00	robe
Donalson, Sherman & John Nees, baby of		3		6/6/1900	6/7/1900	3-3 P.K. Lamb	18.00	robe
Niles, baby	Niles, David		still born	6/7/1900	6/8/1900	2-0 G W case	5.00	
Stranger, unknown	Goris, R.L.		killed by train	6/14/1900	6/15/1900	6-0 Hospital	15.85	
McCurty, Young	Miller, Nathe	19	tuberculosis	6/15/1900	6/16/1900	6-0 Hutten casket	35.00	
Blockstone, Catherine	Blackstone, Dan			6/15/1900	6/19/1900	6-0 metallic	10.00	
Byres, Mrs., child of	Heltan, Bud	8 months	whooping cough	6/20/1900	7/11/1900	3-3 P.K. Casket	15.00	robe
Martin, Park	Martin, Haroci		paralytic	6/30/1900	7/2/1900	6-0 blk cloth swell cover	15.00	
Fleming, Beatrice	Fleming, Charles (father)	9 months	whooping cough	7/12/1900	7/13/1900	2-9 White Hoss	11.00	
Lantz, Prescilla	Martin, Hary	76	stomach cancer	7/12/1900	7/15/1900	6-3 cloth covered metallic	200.00	
Baxter, old man	Baxter, Ben			7/15/1900	7/15/1900	5-9 hossa	12.00	robe
Profeck, Josia				7/22/1900	7/24/1900	6-0 crepe	30.00	robe
Ziegler, Jake	Ziegler, Fred		consumption	8/7/1900	8/8/1900	6-0 draivey brief	30.00	
Keller, old man	Perryman, Jaw		consumption	8/10/1900	8/11/1900	6-0 crepe	25.00	robe
Christman, Barnhart	Christman, Jewliaus	86		8/8/1900	8/10/1900	6-3 blk drapped round	90.00	
Levekin, Miss	Miller, John D.	77		8/11/1900	8/12/1900	6-0 blk cloth swell cover	15.00	
Archie, old Mrs.	Archie, Harvey	70	paralytic	8/17/1900	8/18/1900	5-9 crepe	45.00	
Carroll, Charles	Airs, Mrs.	72	paralytic	8/20/1900	8/21/1900	6-0 crepe	45.00	
Rollin, William	Dixan, Harty		paralytic	8/29/1900	8/31/1900	6-0 blk cloth	65.00	robe
Bryant, Mrs. Nelson	Bryant, Nelson	25	consumption	9/4/1900	9/6/1900	6-0 Asher Rases Broad Cloth	100.00	embalming
Hews, Mrs.	Ragan, Si	57	flux	9/6/1900	9/7/1900	5-9 crepe	50.00	emblaming
-			still born	9/7/1900	9/7/1900	2-0 hoss	4.00	
Torrence, Mrs.	Ballet, Pete							emblaming only
Liesinger, Mrs. Daniel	Reed, Henderson	63	consumption	9/20/1900	9/21/1900	6-0 crepe	50.00	
Trieci, Mrs. Link	Triecie, Link	30		9/23/1900	9/23/1900	6-0 hoss	25.00	
Parshut, Miss	Porshut, F.A.	17	typhus	9/24/1900	9/25/1900	6-0 plush white P.K. not	60.00	
Jielman, Cora S.	Garis, R.L.		tuberculosis	9/28/1900	10/2/1900	6-0 blk cloth	15.00	
Barr	Eckhart, Oscar					coffin	11.00	robe
Ernest, Chris	Kaluerage, Hurman		dropsy	10/9/1900	#####	6-0 crepe	50.00	
Laundryman, James	Mother			10/9/1900	#####	6-0 drap crepe		
Richeson, Mrs. George	Tallman, Addie		consumption	#####	#####	6-0 white P.K.	60.00	
Texas, Jack, child of	Brophy, Mike			#####	#####	2-3 gloss white		
Austin, Alex, child of	Stretch, Frank							
Mandsfield, Ben	Guilford, William		paralytic	#####	#####	6-0 crepe	60.00	
Silgebaur, Barbie	Pogue, Cun		paralytic	#####	#####	6-0 crepe	65.00	robe
Carroll, Mrs. Charles	Geiser, Charles			#####	#####	5-0 crepe	45.00	robe
Nalena, James, child of	Nalsen, Old James	17 months	croup	#####	#####	3-0 white P.K.	20.00	robe
Pague, Orear B.	Pague, C.J.	26	appendicitis	#####	12/	6-3 copper lines blk draped	125.00	
Hardy, William	Hardy, Thomas		old age	1/8/1901	1/9/1901	6-0 blk oct	70.00	robe & slippers
Whitiacers	Baggs, Thomas		injured by train	1/8/1901	1/11/1901	5-9 Hutton casket	35.00	robe
Fling, John	Graves & Fling	81	paralytic	1/14/1901	1/15/1901	6-3 bell mould	90.00	robe & slippers
Foresythe, Grant, baby of	Foresythe, Grant	2 days		1/13/1901	1/15/1901	2-0 G.W. case	6.50	

DEATH IN THE HEARTLAND: THREE YEARS OF BURIAL RECORDS FOR SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS

Price	Church	Preacher	Miles for Hearse	Total	Miles	Cemetery	Notes
	Baptis	Graves	1	65.00	1	Glenwood	
3.00	Residence	Crews	14	53.00	8	Wendling	
				5.00		Jordan	
				5.00			
2.00	Pleasant Hill	Davis		52.00		Pleasant Hill	served on Coroners inquest
3.00	Residence	Allwart		63.00	20		served on inquest
			14	55.00	8		
	Catholic	Heffeman	1	65.00	1	Glenwood	
	1st ME Church	Oneal	1	125.00	1	Glenwood	
	2nd ME Church	Crews	1	12.00	1	Glenwood	
	Christian	Crews	1	50.00	1	Glenwood	
	Unitarian	Douthit	1	100.00	1	Glenwood	
				6.00		Glenwood	
				15.00			county order
2.50	1st ME Church	Oneal	1	82.50	1	Glenwood	
	2nd ME Church	Crews	5	8.00	3	Cuttler	
	at home	Crews		12.00	1	Potters Field	
	2nd ME Church	Crews		26.00	1	Glenwood	
	Unitarian			10.00	1	Glenwood	
	Antioch	L. Corley		15.00	20	Antioch	
4.00	Prarie Bird			74.00	20	Croucher	
3.00	at home	Douthit		37.00	1	Glenwood	
8.25	Mount Carmel	Efler		88.25	8	Mount Carmel	
				5.00			
	Catholic	Heffeman		60.00	1	Glenwood	
	at home			5.00		Cuttler	
3.00	Mount Carmel	Crews		43.00	8	Mount Carmel	
	Mount Carmel	Crews		65.00	8	Mount Carmel	
	7th ME Church	Oneal		90.00	8	Glenwood	
2.00	Christian			27.00		Stewardson	
	2nd ME Church	Crews		10.00	4	Cuttler	
3.50				28.50		Duggant	
				10.00	1	Glenwood	mare
5.50	Catholic	Heffeman		95.75	1	Glenwood	
	Todds Point			60.00	34	Todds Point	
	Richland			75.00	24	Richland	
	Todds Point	McCracken		60.00	34	Todds Point	
5.00				55.00			
2.00				62.00	24	Center Church	
12.00	at home	Oneal		63.00	1	Glenwood	
6.50				41.50		Mt. Zion	
	at home	Heffeman		60.00		Gordan	
6.50	Washington Church	Bair		70.50	18	Washington	
4.00				22.00			
				5.00			
				15.85	1	Potters Field	
		Bore		45.00	12	Mount Carmel	use of hearse \$10
				10.00	1	Glenwood	shipped in from Missouri
1.00	Free Methodist			16.00	1	Glenwood	mare
	Presbyterian	Oneil		15.00	1	Glenwood	shipped in from Danville
	at home	Drummet		11.00	1	Glenwood	
	at home	Oneal		200.00	1	Glenwood	
3.00				15.00			
2.50				32.50		Brunswick	
	at home	Alwert		30.00	1	Glenwood	
5.00				30.00			
				90.00	20	Brunswick	
				15.00	1	Glenwood	shipped from Bloomington, Funeral at Douthet Judge Thorntons
				45.00	16	Stormin	
		Crews		70.00	1	Glenwood	
5.00	Presbyterian	Crews		70.00	1	Glenwood	
10.00			26	110.00	418	Bryant Graveyard	
		Crews	30	50.00	30	Oak Grove	mare
				4.00			
15.00				15.00	24		
	Moutlan Me	Crews		50.00	8	Cutler	
				25.00			
	Lutheran	Alwart		60.00	2	Glenwood	
				15.00	1	Glenwood	shipped from Sedalia, Mo.
1.50				12.50			
	at home	Alwart		50.00	1	Glenwood	
	at home			12.00	1		
	at home			60.00	18	Tallman graveyard	
				18.00			
				1.00	1	shipped in from Decatur	
	Unitarian	Douthit		60.00	4	Glenwood	
5.00	Lutheran	Alwart		65.00	12	Wendling	
5.00	at home	Drummet		50.00	1	Glenwood	
3.00	at home	Sanctified preacher		23.00	1	Glenwood	
		Piety		125.00	24		shipped to Sullivan
5.00				75.00	16	Glenwood	
2.00				35.00	1	Glenwood	
8.00				90.00	23	Richland	mare
				6.50		Glenwood	

TRANSCRIPTION

Remains of	Ordered by	Age	Cause of Death	Date of Death	Date of Burial	Coffin	Price	Robe, Suit, or Wrapper
child	Creamery Man	5 hours	lack of vitality	1/19/1901	1/20/1901	2-0 P.K. casket	15.00	
Williams, Mrs.	Fleming, John		liver complaint	1/20/1901	1/21/1901	5-9 Hutton casket	45.00	
Haywood child	Haywood & Reed		still born	1/-/1901	1/24/1901	2-0 P.K. casket	5.00	
Jackson, Henry	Turney, Charles	87	tuberculosis	1/31/1901	2/2/1901	6-3 blk cloth metallic	150.00	robe & slippers
Perry, Walter	Wiggins, Isaac	65	lung fever	2/3/1901	2/4/1901	6-3 crepe	50.00	robe
Stroll child	Stroll	2	lung fever	2/6/1901	2/7/1901	2-3 P.K. casket	18.00	
Colbert, Miss Stella	Campbell, James	20	typhoid					
Neiss, Old Man John	Neiss, Charles		lung fever	2/9/1901	2/10/1901	6-3 blk draped oct	70.00	robe
Reed, Mrs.	Reed, Mrs.			2/9/1901	2/10/1901		35.00	
Brewster, Jeff	Shelly, Dave, Sr.	69		2/15/1901	2/17/1901	6-3 crepe	65.00	robe
Roll, W.M.	telegram	70	pneumonia	2/14/1901	2/16/1901	6-3 blk oct cloth		
Owens, Mrs. J.J.	Owens		cancer of liver	2/22/1901	2/23/1901	5-9 Hutton casket	40.00	
Heinzer, Fred, child of		1 month		2/23/1901	2/25/1901	2-0 P.K. casket	7.50	robe
Severe, James, child of		15 months		2/23/1901	2/24/1901	2-9 P.K. casket	10.00	
Nims, Mrs. Amelia	Lloyd, Rhodes	80	old age	2/25/1901	2/27/1901	6-3 blk state draped	95.00	blk robe
Atkinson, Thomas	Atkinson, Bill			3/5/1901	3/6/1901	6-0 blind draped	80.00	robe
Baice, Ruby	Risacker, Jake	6 years	croop	3/26/1901	3/27/1901	4-0 P.K. draped	50.00	robe
Richesan	Richesan, George	89	old age	3/27/1901	3/29/1901	6-3 crepe	65.00	robe & slippers
Blankenship, Mrs. Ascie	Hopkins, E.M.		paralytic	4/8/1901	4/10/1901	6-0 crepe	63.00	
Francisciau, Mrs. Ezeria	Francisciau, James	60	paralytic	4/11/1901	4/12/1901	5-6 Queen		robe
Hardy, Thomas	Son	73		4/17/1901	4/18/1901	6-0 oak	65.00	
Craig at Tancher	County			4/18/1901	4/19/1901	6-0 hospital	12.00	
Worthman, Mrs. W.E.	Worthman, W.E.		tuberculosis	4/22/1901	4/23/1901	6-0 white plush	57.50	
Roseler, Edward	James, Isaac		old age	5/1/1901	5/2/1901	6-3 square slate blk	70.00	robe
Flanders, Moses	Morehead, John		typhoid	5/2/1901	5/3/1901	6-0 oct draped	75.00	robe
Wade, Mrs. Andy	Wade, Andy		sudden death	5/10/1901	5/11/1901	5-9 casket in walnut	45.00	robe
Martin, Mark	Martin, Harry			5/13/1901	5/14/1901	6-0 blk cloth		
Hickey, Mrs. Patric	Dr. Eddy		typhoid	5/18/1901	5/20/1901	6-0 Dewy Crepe	70.00	slippers
Jackson, Mrs.	Miller, Shorty			5/19/1901	5/21/1901	6-0 crepe	55.00	robe
Dagan, Mrs. Andy	Reeves, Tom	80	old age	5/26/1901	5/27/1901	6-0 solid oak	75.00	
Lawson, Walker	G.A.R.	84	paralytic	5/29/1901	5/30/1901	6-3 Crepe no glass	29.00	robe
Graves, Henry	Warthman	45	liver trouble	5/30/1901	6/1/1901	blind draped	75.00	robe, vault & embalmed
Baker, Mrs. Ella	Le Wiott		cancer	6/2/1901	6/3/1901	blk cloth draped coffin lined		
Winsan, Frank	Hersan, Marl			6/6/1901	6/8/1901	6-0 blk cloth draped		
Austin, Alex, child of		infant		6/13/1901	6/14/1901			
Talman baby	Talman, H.M.	6 months	colera	7/1/1901	7/2/1901	2-6 P.K. Casket	15.00	
Early, Mrs. Mary		50	heart trouble	7/9/1901	7/11/1901	6-0 oct blk cloth	60.00	robe, slippers, embalming
Crowder, Miss Pearl	Toothman	15	tuberculosis	7/10/1901	7/12/1901	6-0 draped white plush	95.00	slippers
Peterson, Chris	Brown, W.H.	60	dropsy	7/15/1901	7/16/1901	6-3 blk cloth draped	70.00	robe, slippers, embalming, socks
Peas, Floyd	Peas, Rev.	13 months		7/13/1901	7/14/1901	2-9 P.K. casket	12.00	
Geer, Mrs. Burt	Ziegler, Fred	23	tuberculosis	7/18/1901	7/19/1901	6-0 crepe	40.00	
Summers, Samuel, child of	Summers, Sam	infant						
Moar, George A.		5	car hit	7/27/1901	7/29/1901	6-3 oak state	85.00	robe & embalming
Stewart, John	telephone		quick consumption	8/11/1901	8/13/1901	6-3 model couch	80.00	robe & slippers
Hamell, Miss				8/30/1901	9/1/1901	6-0 P.K. plush	53.00	robe
Rosmyer, Fred, child of	father	1 week		9/2/1901	9/3/1901	2-0 G.W. case	6.00	
Durkee, Mrs. George	Durkee, Ed	75		9/2/1901	9/3/1901	6-0 white plush	75.00	robe
Johnson, Miss	Fisk, Lucian	64	peritonitis	9/21/1901	9/22/1901	5-9 crepe	45.00	
Cassel, Mrs.	Munson, Henry	42	paralytic	9/21/1901	9/22/1901	hospital		robe
Barbee, Charles	Barbee, John	3	scarlet fever	9/21/1901	9/22/1901	3-0 white plush couch		
Pease, Mrs. Fred	Dauthit, Will	22	typhoid	9/21/1901	9/23/1901	5-9 crepe	50.00	robe
Brothertan, Frank T.	Stumpp, Fred	64	congestive chill	9/24/1901	9/25/1901			
Hoglan, Mrs.	Hogland, John		heart trouble	#####	#####	6-3 draped copper lined	135.00	emblamed
Young, Mrs. Whitie	Young, Dect		tuberculosis	#####	#####	5-9 crepe	35.00	robe
Boyce, George	Kilem, Lawson	65	brain trouble	#####	#####	6-3 metallic	150.00	robe & embalming
Thomas, William	Thomas, Jack	28	killed by train	#####	#####		15.00	
Hewston, Walter	McClain, Wess	14	heart trouble	#####	#####	5-3 wood casket	35.00	robe
Hawk, Mrs. J.L.	Hawk, J.L.	37	tuberculosis	#####	#####	6-0 draped white broadcloth	100.00	robe
Layman, Mrs. Samuel	Lawman, Bill		tuberculosis	11/-/1901	11/5/1901	blk cloth		
Hudson, Lew	Hagan, Thomas	78	Bright's disease	11/5/1901	11/7/1901	6-3 slate blk cloth drape	100.00	robe & slippers
Himes, George	Son		heart failure	11/7/1901	11/8/1901	crepe draped		
Carney, Mike	Carney, James	45	killed by C&E train	#####	#####	6-0 blk cloth square	85.00	robe, underclothes, embalming
Rector, Frank, child of	Rector, Frank	3	diphtheria	#####	#####	4-0 P.K. casket	10.00	no herse
Smith, Old Mrs. Thomas	Hinest, Lew		old age	#####	#####	5-3 P.K. Casket	50.00	
Mayer, James	Mayer	92	heart failure	#####	#####	6-0 oct blk draped	75.00	robe & embalming
Piety, Sam, child of	Kilem, John		lung fever	12/1/1901	12/2/1901	3-0 P.K. plush mold	27.00	
Saiser, Charles	Gaiser, Mrs. Telephone	41	heat dropsy	12/6/1901	12/6/1901	in oak plaine case	12.00	
Homrighause, John	Weakley, I.T.	40	suicide	12/1/1901	#####	6-0 oct black cloth	15.00	
Fitzgeralds, Mrs. Thomas	Fraker, Mae		tuberculosis	#####	#####	6-0 blk plush	85.00	
Sietler, Mrs. Thomas	Sietler, Thomas	4-	dropsy	#####	#####	5-9 Hutton casket	45.00	
Eyer, Joseph E.	Copland, Marian		tuberculosis	#####	#####	6-0 plain case	15.00	
Rice, Polly	Briggs, Shorty		tumor	#####	#####	5-9 crepe	47.00	
Harvey, Mrs.	Prosser, Daniel	31	lung fever	#####	#####	6-0 white plush	65.00	
Rose, Mrs. James	Niles, Joseph M.		dropsy	#####	#####	6-0 Dewy crepe	57.00	
Deningbarger, Walter	Damingbarger, George		burned	12/-/1901	#####			
Brewster, Jeff	Sheely, Dave, Sr.		alcoholism	2/16/1901	2/17/1901	6-3 crepe	65.00	robe
Burkhart, Dave	Shurlock, Andy			1/7/1902	1/8/1902	6-0 Hass	25.00	robe
Dill, Mrs. Alex				1/10/1902	1/12/1902	5-9 crepe	45.00	
Dilley, Mrs. Tice	Martin, Isaac	68	asthma	1/11/1902	1/14/1902			
Cox, Bertie	Roseler, Charles	20	consumption	1/16/1902	1/17/1902	6-0 P.K. combination	65.00	
Fitzgerald, Marry	Fitzgerald, Thomas	39	bronchitis	1/17/1902	1/18/1902	6-3 plush couch	90.00	
Denine, Daniel	Son		lung fever	1/22/1902	1/24/1902	6-0 blind draped	75.00	robe
Kingston, James	telephone - Benjamin's coal mine		dropped dead	1/29/1902	1/30/1902	6-0 crepe	50.00	
Brewster, Mrs. Jeff	Sheely, Dave		dropsy	1/30/1902	1/31/1902	6-3 double extra blk cloth	75.00	
Calvert, E.L., child of	Dr. Kerr - telephone	1 day		2/1/1902	2/2/1902	2-0 P.K.	6.00	

DEATH IN THE HEARTLAND: THREE YEARS OF BURIAL RECORDS FOR SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS

Price	Church	Preacher	Miles for Hearse	Total	Miles	Cemetery	Notes
		Drummet		15.00		Cedar Lake	shipped to Cedar Lake, Indiana
				45.00		Oak Grove	Davis & Fleming note
				5.00		Mount Carmel	
17.00				167.00	20	Brunswick	
2.00				52.00	12	Oak Grove	
				18.00		Strausburg	
		Oneal		12.00	1	Glenwood	shipped from Indian Territory
2.50	at home	Tyler		72.50	10	Glenwood	
				35.00		Tallman graveyard	Block Log schoolhouse
4.00	at home	Douthit		69.00	4	Glenwood	
				12.00	10	Oak Grove	shipped from Paragan, Indiana
		Ellice		40.00	8	Mount Carmel	
1.75	Lutheran	Allwait		9.25		Glenwood	
				10.00		Mount Carmel	
5.00	1st ME Church	Oneal		100.00	1	Golden City, MO	shipped
6.00				86.00	30	Todds Point	
5.00	Resockers	O.P. Right		55.00	1	Glenwood	
5.00	at home	Ellice		70.00	24	Quigley	
	E.M. Hopkins	Tiler		63.00	1	Glenwood	
4.00	at home	O'Neil			1	Glenwood	
				65.00	1	Glenwood	shipped from Anna
				12.00			
	Antioch			57.50	20	Antioch	
12.00		Allwart		82.00	1	Glenwood	
3.00	ME Maillan	Ellis		78.00	1	Glenwood	
4.00		Drummet		49.00	35	Union	
				15.00	1	Glenwood	shipped from Terra Haute
2.00	Christain	Drummet		72.00	10	Glenwood	
6.00				61.00	1	Glenwood	
	Luthern	Allwert		75.00	1	Glenwood	
3.50	Tom Quigg Residence	Drummet		32.50	25	Sulfur Springs	
64.00		Mathews		139.00	10	Washington	
		Howard		10.00	1	Glenwood	shipped from Nevad, Mo
	1st ME Church	O' Neal			1	Glenwood	
					1	Glenwood	
	at home	O' Neal		15.00	1	Glenwood	my mare \$1.50
23.00		Right		83.00	6	Tuscola	shipped to Tuscola
2.00	at home	Douthit		97.00	15	Bethany	shipped to Bethany
20.50				90.50	8	Jordan	
				12.00		Pleasant Hill	
	lives at East Salem Scho	Alwert		40.00		Glenwood	
				9.00			
16.50				101.50		Pleasant Hill	
15.00	at home	Oneal		95.00	1	Glenwood	
4.00				57.00	14	Ward Graveyard	
	at home	Ellis		6.00	1	Glenwood	
6.00	at home	Tyler		81.00	1	Glenwood	
				45.00	1	Hillsboro	shipped to Hillsboro, Illinois
3.00	at home	Westshelly		16.00		Bethel	
	Mount Carmel			20.00		Mount Carmel	
3.00	Mount Carmel			53.20	8	Mount Carmel	
				15.00	8		
25.00		Tyler		155.00	30	Ohio	emblamed body at poor farm, shipped to Cincinnati, Ohio; my mare \$1.50
4.00	Unitarian	Doulhit		43.00	1	Glenwood	embalmed body at home on the farm, shipped to Ohio
34.00	at home	Woalforth		184.00	12	Glenwood	
	at home	Woalforth		15.00	1	Glenwood	mare
3.00	AM Church	Johnson		38.00	1	Glenwood	shipped from Edwardsville; two trips; mare
11.00	Bucks Castle	Drummet		111.00	14	Glenwood	mare
	Catholic	Martin		10.00	1	Bethel	mare
15.00	Jordan Chapel	Hart		115.00	10	Glenwood	shipped from Danville, Illinois
		Woalforth		15.00	8	Jordan	
31.60		Martin		116.10	1	Mount Carmel	Masonic order, shipped from Edenburg; two trips; mare
				10.00		Glenwood	
		Martin		50.00	12	Glenwood	died at poor farm; mare
20.00	Bucks Castle	Ellice		95.00	10	private cemetery back of Hens Smith	mare
	no services	Ellice		27.00	20	Antioch	mare Pitrey
	no services			12.00	1	Glenwood	shipped from St. Elma - hauling box
	at home	Woalforth		15.00	1	Glenwood	shipped from Moltoan
	Catholic	Martin		85.00	1	Glenwood	
		Douthit		45.00	10	Oak Grove	
		Munsan		15.00	10	Mount Carmel	shipped from Deer Park, Alabama
	at home	Drummet		45.00	1	Glenwood	
	Free Methodist	Lady Preacher		65.00	6	Cutler	
				57.00	1		shipped to Humbolt Embalming
		Tyler					shipped to Paxton
4.00	at home			69.00			
2.00	Catholic	Martin		27.00	1	Glenwood	Mike Fagan and Will Fagan listed with the minister
	at home	Tyler		45.00	1	Glenwood	
				12.00	1	Glenwood	
	at home	Woodforth		65.00	1	Glenwood	shipped from South McAlister Catholic church, mare \$1.75
	Catholic	Martin		90.00	1	Glenwood	mare \$1.75
3.50	Catholic	Martin		83.50	7	Glenwood	mare \$1.75
	1st ME Church	Woodforth		50.00	7	Glenwood	mare \$1.75
	Christian Church	Drummet		75.00	1	Glenwood	mare \$1.75
				6.00		Antioch	

TRANSCRIPTION

Remains of	Ordered by	Age	Cause of Death	Date of Death	Date of Burial	Coffin	Price	Robe, Suit, or Wrapper
Reed, John, child of	Anderson	14 months		2/3/1902	2/4/1902	2-9 P.K. casket	12.00	
Boyce, Than	Weakley, Hood		Bright's disease	2/2/1902	2/4/1902			
Patterson, Mrs. James	Son	85		2/4/1902	2/5/1902	6-0 Elistick cloth	60.00	robe
Horsley, Miss	Miller, Chick			2/5/1902	2/7/1902	6-0 oct white plush	60.00	robe & slippers
McCartney, child	Helton & Hudson	5 months	infant disease	2/12/1902	2/13/1902	2-0 P.K. plush mold	21.00	
Richards, Nancie	Turner, Lou	6	pneumonia	2/14/1902	2/17/1902	6-0 rayed top blk cloth	75.00	
Haw, Denver	Barbee, John		pneumonia	2/14/1902	2/16/1902		50.00	robe
Gobart, Luella	Hendricks, Laurson	4 months	pneumonia	2/18/1902	2/20/1902	3-0 plush	28.00	
Gon, Eliza	Gon, Bamer	84	pneumonia	2/25/1902	2/26/1902	6-0 Dewey drapped	60.00	
Copeland, Mrs. Ellen	Copeland, Abe			2/25/1902	2/26/1902	6-0 satin rope blk cloth	75.00	
Winson, Lawrence	Winson, John	6	remittent fever	2/26/1902	2/27/1902	4-0 white plush	25.00	
Lockeman, Harry	Crouch, Pully	29	tuberculosis	2/27/1902	2/28/1902	6-3 crepe	50.00	robe
Garis, L. Reau	Allen, Ed		stomach trouble	3/10/1902	3/12/1902	6-0 black cloth slate	100.00	
Damienbarger, Adam	Williams, Asie		heart failure	3/11/1902	3/13/1902	6-0 blk cloth drapped	70.00	embalming
Smith, Mae	Reeder, John			3/12/1902	3/13/1902	6-0 crepe	35.00	
Brysan, child of	Killel, J.W.			3/12/1902	3/13/1902	3-6 square white plush	17.00	
Geiser, Henry	telephone			3/13/1902	3/14/1902	6-0 crepe	35.00	robe
McCartney, Mrs. J.H.	Helton & Hudson			3/14/1902	3/15/1902	6-0 blk cloth drapped	65.00	
Angline, John	Angline, Ben	2	scarlet fever	3/21/1902	3/23/1902			
Lewis, Mrs. Arthur	Lewis, F.L.	23	tuberculosis	3/24/1902	3/25/1902	6-0 gold P.K. plush	60.00	robe
Smith, Dave	Son	67	pneumonia	3/27/1902	3/29/1902	6-3 crepe oct	40.00	
Howard, Lawn	Croucher, Rev.	46	endocarditis	3/31/1902	3/1/1902	6-3 blk flaring sides	75.00	robe
Owens, Joe, daughter of	Reed, Henderson		consumption	3/13/1902	3/14/1902	6-0 plush white P.K. mold		
Wetzel, Mrs. Amelia	Roseler, Dave	75	old age	4/11/1902	4/13/1902	6-3 satin rope blk cloth	70.00	blk robe
Laughlin, Col.	Graybill, George		senile debility	4/22/1902	4/23/1902	6-3 coffin lined	125.00	
Lands, James	Turney, Cof	82	pneumonia	4/23/1902	4/24/1902	6-0 crepe	35.00	
Schritzel, Samuel, child	Schritzel, Bro	2	dropsy of head	4/25/1902	4/26/1902	3-0 white plush couch	13.00	
Helton, Isoc	Helton boys	82	pneumonia	4/25/1902	4/26/1902	6-0 draped water plush	85.00	robe
Mars, Miss Simon	Ragan, Ebe		tuberculosis	4/29/1903	4/30/1902	5-9 crepe	45.00	robe
Reeves, Tom	Reeves, Robert		tuberculosis	5/1/1902	5/2/1902	6-0 Ashes Roses	65.00	robe
Brown, Henry	Horn, J. and Dr. Bivinis		suicide	5/1/1902	5/3/1902	6-0 crepe	45.00	
Oliver, Ben	telephone	3-		5/12/1902	5/14/1902	6-3 steel gray	80.00	
Jellet, Old Mrs.	Sorrells, James		consumption	5/17/1902	5/18/1902	6-0 Dews crepe	55.00	
Sills, Nathaniel	Decker, Adam	71	consumption	5/17/1902	5/18/1902	6-0 crepe	29.00	
Murcer, Mrs. Marcus	Haydan, Walter	57	Blood to water	5/17/1902	5/18/1902	6-0 blk cloth	60.00	robe
Hanks, Mrs.	County			5/18/1902	5/18/1902	5-6 varnished case	20.00	
Leman, George, child of	telegraph			5/19/1902	5/20/1902			
Kearney, Mrs. Michael	Kearney, John	64	heart trouble	5/18/1902	5/19/1902	6-0 crepe	50.00	
Stunff, Conrad	Copeland, Abe		heart trouble	5/19/1902	5/21/1902	6-0 draped blk cloth	70.00	
Morgan, James	telephone		lung fever	5/21/1902	5/23/1902	6-0 blk plush draped	85.00	embalming
Warner, Frank, child of	Peters, Hamer			5/28/1902	5/28/1902	2-0 P.K. Casket	6.00	

DEATH IN THE HEARTLAND: THREE YEARS OF BURIAL RECORDS FOR SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS

Price	Church	Preacher	Miles for Hearse	Total	Miles	Cemetery	Notes
	at home			12.00		Glenwood	had small pox, Tuck Hines buried it.
				20.00	14	Glenwood	shipped from St. Louis, mare \$3.00
4.00	at Issac Heltan			64.00	10	Heltan	mare \$1.50
5.00	Antioch			65.00	20	Antioch	mare \$1.50
				21.00			
				75.00	1		shipped to Indiana
2.50				52.50			
	Antioch	Piety		28.00		Antioch	
				60.00			
	2nd ME Church	Ellice		75.00	8	Glenwood	
	at graveyard	Drummet		25.00		Glenwood	
4.00	Moulton ME	Woodforth		54.00	1	Glenwood	
	Presbyterian	Tyler & Dauthit		100.00	1	Glenwood	
10.00	Presbyterian	Tyler		80.00	1	Glenwood	
	Unitarian	Douthit		35.00	1	Glenwood	
				17.00			
3.00	1st ME Church	Woodforth		38.00	1	Glenwood	
	Oak Grove	Weley Johnson		65.00	12	Oak Grove	
				8.00	1	Glenwood	shipped from Jennings, Louisiana
4.00		Rev Mrs. Museleman		64.00	25	Mount Carmel	
				40.00		Mt. Zion	no herse
2.50	at home	Croucher		77.50	20	Craig	
				10.00	1	Cutler	shipped from St. Louis, mare \$3.00
10.00	Lutheran	Alwart		80.00	1	Glenwood	
	Presbyterian	Tyler		125.00	1	Glenwood	
	Baptist Church	Todd		35.00	18	Glenwood	
				13.00		Robinson	
15.00	at home	Douthit		100.00	10	Helton	
3.50	Zion Chapel	Munsan		48.50	16	Mt. Zion	
	at home	Gaudy		65.00	1	Glenwood	
	at home	Ellice		45.00	1	Glenwood	
	at home	Wielder		80.00	1	Glenwood	
	at home	Wielder		55.00	1	Glenwood	
	Molten M.E.	Wielder		29.00	1	Glenwood	Tullman's Hearse
15.00	Baptist Church			75.00	12	Washington	mare
				20.00			
				8.00	1	Glenwood	
	Catholic	Martin		50.00	1	Glenwood	
	Antioch			70.00	28	Antioch	
15.00	at home	Douthit		100.00	10	Helton	
				6.00		Glenwood	

TRANSCRIPTION

Conclusions

Covering the period from January 1, 1900 through May 28, 1902, the *Register of Funerals* provides details on the funerals of 211 citizens of Shelby County, Illinois. The document was most likely created by Albert Lantz, during the period he was employed by the Lantz Brothers, purveyors of stoves, furniture, and undertaking. Presumably, this was only one component of the firm's business records, since it does not include information regarding billing and payment.

The document was generated during a period when Shelby County was collecting death certificates, although this practice was voluntary and we have not determined if these records are in some way duplicated by the public record. Even if they are, the *Register of Funerals* provides details that would never be recorded in an official death certificate, such as the nature of the burial goods and their cost.

Shelbyville and Shelby County are considered typical of the "heartland," the rural farming communities of the central United States during the transition from the nineteenth to twentieth century. Shelby County had a population of about 32,000, while the Shelbyville community (town and surrounding township) had a population of about 3,200.

Although these records are generally most valued by genealogists, they offer unprecedented mortuary data of extraordinary importance to the anthropologist seeking to understand better the evolution of burial practices in America.

The firm generating these records was

typical of rural America during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. As one of Dowd's commentators remarked, "in most small towns (8,000 and under) undertakers carry on their business in connection with furniture trade or some other line" (Dowd 1921:48). Undertakers generally kept little or no stock. In large cities, such as Chicago, they would take their customers to the wholesale house to select a coffin (Dowd 1921:15). In the smaller communities, such as Shelbyville, they relied on manufacturers' catalogs with separate price lists and convenient lists of telegraph words to facilitate ordering merchandise by express trains (Dowd 1921:55-56).¹

It seems that by the 1920s, there was a push for salesrooms in order to display caskets and improve sales (e.g., Callaway 1928; Crane & Breed 1921).

Another unusual characteristic of the period was that the casket bore a large share of the undertaker's charges for overhead and services (Dowd 1921:274-275). Certainly, this seems likely for this account, since only the casket, clothing, and embalming were itemized expenses. Such details as mileage, while indicated, do not seem to be specifically enumerated.

This resulted in critics such as Dowd complaining that caskets were sold were five to ten times the wholesale cost or 500% to 1000% (Dowd 1921:15, 56). Such pricing was entirely obscured from the public, which really had no idea of what funerals should or would cost.

Some caskets, especially during this

of the firm ordering, and other factors.

¹ Even the manufacturer's listed price was likely negotiable, depending on the size and credit worthiness

CONCLUSIONS

Table 3.
Analysis of the *Register of Funerals*

	Funerals	Caskets Sold	Total \$ Caskets	Average \$ Casket	Range \$ Casket	\$ Accessories	Bodies Embalmed	Range \$ Embalming
1900	81	75	3,320.85	46.12	\$4-\$200	131.75	3	\$10-\$15
1901	80	66	3,602.50	54.58	\$6.50-\$150	402.35	8	\$10-\$25
1902	50	45	2,382.00	52.93	\$6-\$125	99.00	2	\$10-\$15

period, were sold without trimmings, others were complete. To help undertakers match trimmings to the price of the casket, publications such as *The Funeral Directors Guide* helped match casket and trimming prices to yield a consistent return (Cloud 1917). There is no mention in the *Register of Funerals* concerning interior or exterior trimmings, suggesting that all caskets were ordered complete.

Dowd was more complementary of embalming,

American undertakers have been foremost to introduce arterial injection as a cheap and rapid substitute for old-time embalming whereby to keep dead bodies from natural, quick dissolution, thus making the corpse presentable at a funeral (Dowd 1921:52).

He reported prices in the 1920s from \$15 to \$35 in the east, noting that on the west coast prices were frequently \$100 or more (Dowd 1921:53).

The distinction was between embalming "complete" and "arterial injection." "Complete" likely meant cavity embalming during which liquids and gases from the hollow organs in the abdominal and thoracic cavities were removed and replaced with embalming fluid. This would then be supplemented with arterial injection. If only arterial injection was used, fluids would be injected fluid in the femoral or carotid artery, without drainage or any cavity treatment, although blood would be withdrawn from a vein (Habenstein and Lamers 1955:398-399; Mayer 1996:22).

The Shelbyville Document

Table 3 provides some basic information generated by the burial records in the *Register of Funerals*.

The number of funerals held steady in 1900 and 1901. Even if the number of caskets sold declined, the overall profitability of casket sales improved and the average casket price increased (this represents an actual increase, since there was no inflation during this period).

What is even more noticeable is the dramatic increase in the sales of funeral accessories in 1901 compared to 1900, including embalming, robes, and slippers.

This rise is at least partially the result in the increase in the sales' prices of robes. In 1900, they were billed at \$1 to \$5, while in 1901; they were billed at \$2 to \$12.

There was a distinct difference in the cost of funerals for infants and children and the funerals for adults. Much of this cost difference was the result of the caskets used. In 1900, the 13 children's funerals had a casket price averaging \$11.53 and the 12 children's funerals in 1901 had an average of \$15.17. In contrast, the average adult caskets for those two years were \$56.25 (n=62) and \$63.34 (n=54).

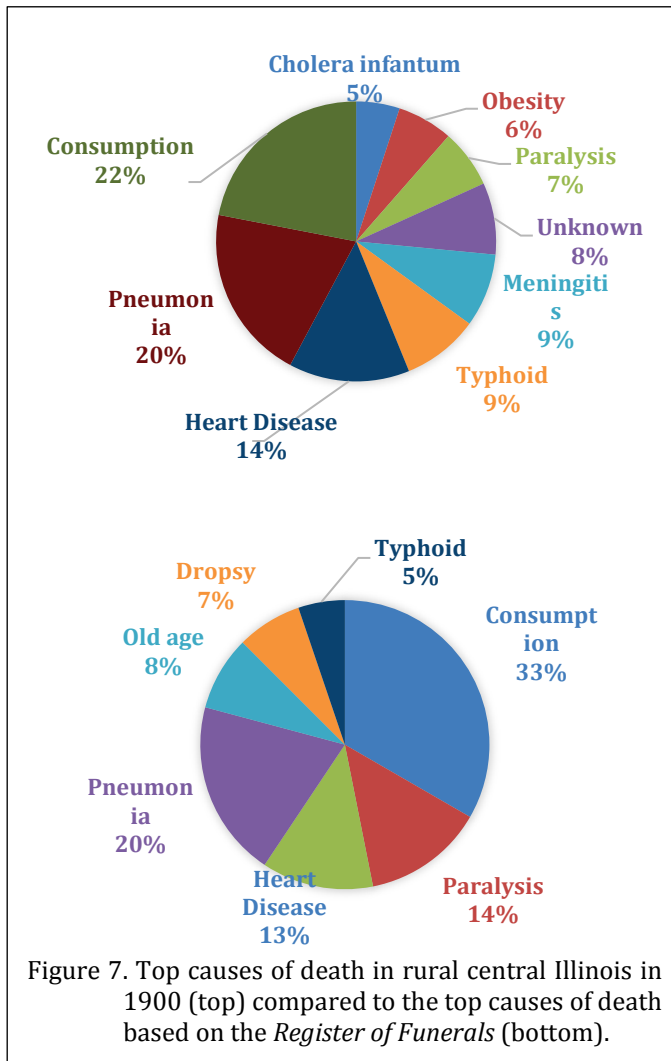
While the prices for robes is not provided in the 1903 National Casket Company catalog, the price for shoes was generally between \$10 and \$13 per dozen, or about .83¢ to \$1.08 each. Thus, the \$2 price is a markup of about 140% on the cost of the slippers.

Looking at the hospital caskets being sold in the *Register of Funerals* for between \$12 and \$15, the wholesale cost from the 1903 National Casket Company was \$5.25, indicating a markup of between 128% and 186%. Perhaps not the 500% to 1000% suggested by Dowd, but still a very substantial profit.

Other direct comparisons are not so easy, since there is so much variability, but with the sales price of children's caskets being \$5 at the low end for gloss white (G.W.), the casket probably cost the funeral home about \$1.75 to \$2.75, depending on the size. This amounts to an average markup of

about 190%. The most expensive child's casket was a drop-side model and these ran between about \$12 and \$27 in the 1903 National Casket Catalog. Thus, the \$50 sale represents a markup of somewhere between 100% and 300%. Thus, while far less money was made on a child's burial, the firm was ensured of generating approximately equal profits on all of its sales.

If the first five months of 1902 are representative, that might have meant a significant uptick in deaths – and funeral business – for that year. Nevertheless, there may have been a decline in the sale of burial accessories.



There appears to be a gradual increase in the number of burials involving embalming. Inspection of the circumstances reveal this was not the result of infectious disease or the need for long shipments. Many were simple deaths being quickly buried in the local community. It appears that there was a gradual acceptance of embalming by the community. Nevertheless, the proportion of those receiving embalming was never greater than 10%.

Exploring the cause of death very briefly, the nine most common causes listed in the 1900 federal census mortality schedules for this area of Illinois (Group 3, rural) are shown in Figure 7. The two most significant causes of death are tuberculosis and pneumonia. Also shown are the causes of death identified in the *Register of Funerals*. This account also reveals the devastation caused by tuberculosis and pneumonia, although curiously the former appears more prevalent in the Shelbyville community. Otherwise, the two data sources closely resemble each other.

Comparisons

There are funeral records from O'Fallon, Illinois in St. Clair County. This community, while slightly smaller than Shelbyville, was nevertheless part of the rural Illinois farmland. The undertaker, Mathias Schwarz, operated from perhaps 1873 to 1919, although we will examine only a single year, 1902 since that

coincides with one of the years in the *Register of Funerals*. Schwarz maintained a more comprehensive record of his burials, but unfortunately, the prices associated with the goods and services were not transcribed or published, severely limiting the usefulness of the record for research purposes.

The document, however, reports,

Most infant funerals cost under \$8.00. . . . The general price range for services fell between \$3.00–\$18.00. The average adult services ranged between \$50.00 to \$100.00, with extremes of \$2.00, and \$566.00. Again, the casket was the biggest expense (Anonymous 2010:2).

This suggests that infant burials at O'Fallon may have been somewhat less expensive (less than \$8 compared to the averages at Shelbyville of between \$11.52 in 1900 and \$15.17 in 1901). Adult funerals are more difficult to compare based on the information provided. At Shelbyville, the adult burials cost between \$6.50 and \$200, so the O'Fallon sample certainly exhibits both much more elaborate and much less costly burials. The average of \$60.95 at Shelbyville falls within the lower end of the "average" reported for O'Fallon.

The Schwartz records apparently provide the name of the casket company for each container ordered, which seems to be unusual for these records. Where individual prices available, it would be possible to derive very accurate profit margins for the firm. As it is, we can only comment that the three of the casket companies used by Schwartz (Mound, Aurora, and St. Louis) were all out of state firms (in Missouri and Indiana). There was likely little or no increase in cost given the ability of caskets being shipped by rail express.

In 1902, Swartz handled 42 burials, which seems about what would be expected given the size of the community. What was not expected, at least when compared to Shelbyville, is that 50% of the

O'Fallon burials in 1902 were of infants, compared to only 20% for the Shelbyville area. Moreover, the death of two of these children was attributed to "marasmus," typically identified as a serious nutritional deficiency associated with reduced caloric and protein intake. Clearly, there were at least some differences between these two communities that deserve additional investigation.

Unfortunately, the Schwartz transcription does not include whether the body was embalmed, so we are unable to compare the rate of this service in the two locations. However, information on embalming is available from the McCormick records from Columbia, South Carolina. Between 1903 and 1906, embalming was conducted on 200 of the 500 bodies recorded, or 40% (Trinkley and Hacker 2004:8). While on its face, embalming was more frequently practiced in Columbia than in Shelbyville, we suspect this is not a north-south difference, but rather presents perhaps an urban-rural dichotomy. Crissman (1994:35) observes that embalming was also very slow to be accepted in central Appalachia.

The Future

For records such as these to be truly useful beyond genealogical interests, it is critical that transcriptions be complete, providing details on the services offered. It is impossible for the transcriber to guess how the records may be used in the future and dismissing data may seriously compromise the document's ability to shed light on past lifeways, including the choices people had to make upon the death of a loved on. It takes very little additional effort and may provide researchers with critical information.

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